



Not Less than 791 Arbitrary Arrests in February 2016

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I. Introduction:

Since 2011, SNHR is keen to follow the highest documentation standards but faces a number of challenges in documenting arrest cases. Some families are unwilling to provide us with any information since they fear their son's life. Our task becomes even harder when a female prisoner is involved, since families fear that their daughters might be tortured or executed.

Usually, negotiations with security authorities start when they blackmail families and force them to pay, sometimes, tens of millions of Syrian Liras in exchange for their son's or daughter's release. This issue is considered one of the greatest challenges faced by SNHR in documenting arrested and released individuals since 2011.

Even though SNHR documented the arrest of more than 117 thousand individuals, including children and women, we affirm that our estimations indicate that the number of detainees reached more than 215 thousand, 99 % are held captive in government detention centers, even though authorities deny these facts.

Now, Syrians have deep convictions that the international community, with all its establishments, is incapable of pressuring the Syrian authorities to release any detainee. However, most of the release cases were recorded after prisoners swap deals between government authorities and armed opposition groups. 99% of the detainees are prohibited to talk to a lawyer or their family members. Further, none of those government or security personnel who were confirmed to perpetrate crimes was held





accountable to it; on the contrary, they are protected by the government itself.

SNHR documented the arrest of not less than 117 thousand persons, since the beginning of uprising in March 2011.

This mounting number of arrested individuals is due to several reasons:

1. A great number of detainees were imprisoned since their relatives, siblings, or family members were involved with armed opposition groups or since they provided humanitarian aid to people in need.

2. Most of the arrest cases are conducted randomly against people who are not involved in protests, relief aid, or military actions.

3. The Syrian regime continues to imprison a great number of civilians who did not participate in the uprising despite judicial orders for their release.

4. Government forces control densely populated areas like the main cities in each governorate and use a systemized policy of arbitrary arrests against civilians in these regions.

5. It is worth mentioning that there are multiple forces, affiliated to government authorities, who are responsible for arbitrary arresting civilians and detaining them in certain prisons that are not subjected to judicial supervision where detainees are not treated according to the Syrian stipulated laws.

6. A great number of arrest cases are driven by blackmails or sectarian grudges. SNHR records show that more than 95% of the detainees in government and its militias' prisons are of Sunni majority.

7. The widespread arrests motivated by extortion or sectarian grudges, especially in unstable security areas. These areas experience ongoing conflicts and are either under the control of several groups, or not controlled by conflict parties. As a result, local armed militias, who are not affiliated to any of the conflict parties, emerged and contributed to the current conflict.

Details about detainees can be found through the search engine on SNHR website, you may also add the name and details of any detainee as the concerned team will check the data and upload it if proved accurate.





II. Report Details:

In January 2016, government forces launched widespread arrests and raids campaigns to force military recruitment on young men. These campaigns targeted high school and university students, and government employees, even though they possessed military recruitment postponement documents.

ISIL also launched widespread arbitrary arrests in regions that are under its control. These arrests targeted a great number of armed opposition members or residents who are related to them or against civilians who were trying to leave the regions controlled by it, especially in Homs suburbs.

Kurdish Self Management Forces also carried on with its arbitrary and systematic arrests against Arab civilians, activists and politicians in regions under its control.

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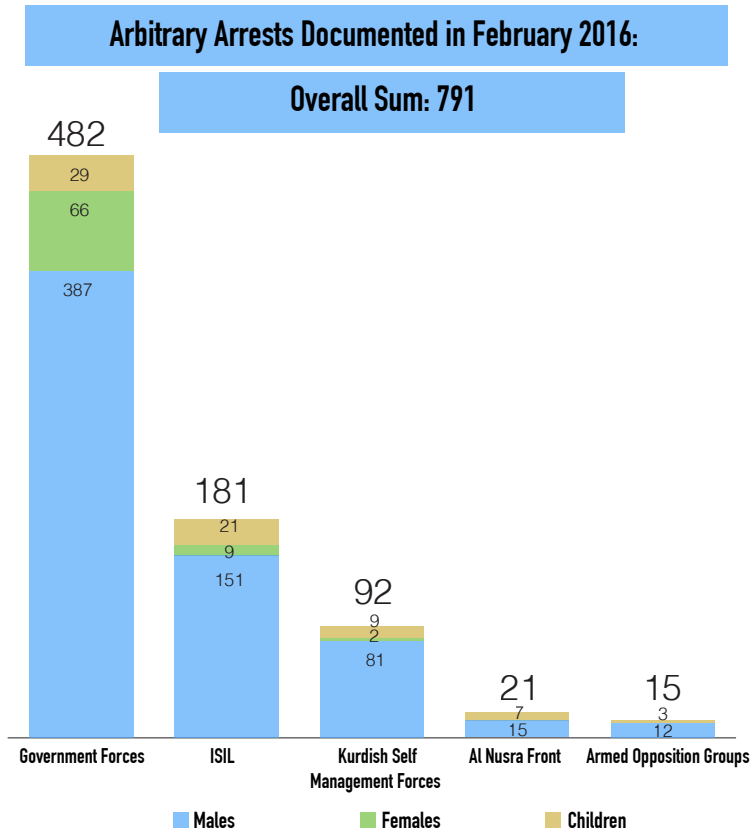
Also armed opposition groups arrested some civilians and military members who belonged to other armed opposition groups. Those arrests were concentrated in Damascus suburbs governorate.

- The following table depicts the arbitrary arrests in February 2016. We assure that these numbers are the bare minimum of what we were able to document due to the current security and logistics obstacles.

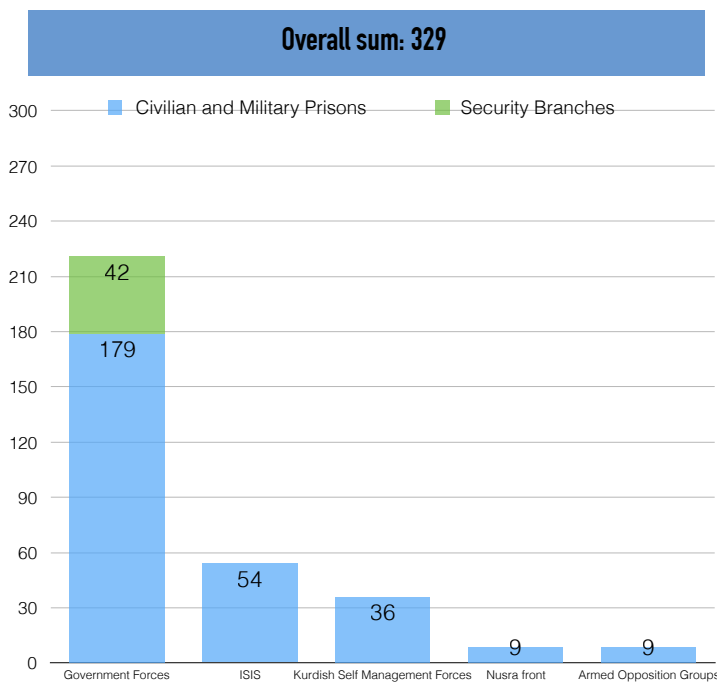




Arbitrary Arrests Documented in February 2016:

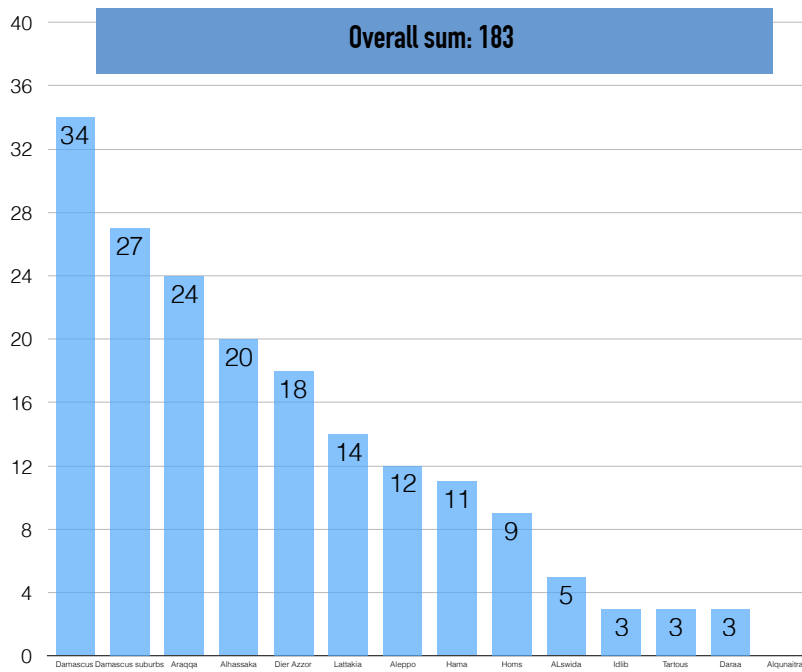


Documented Releases in Different Detention Centers in February 2016:

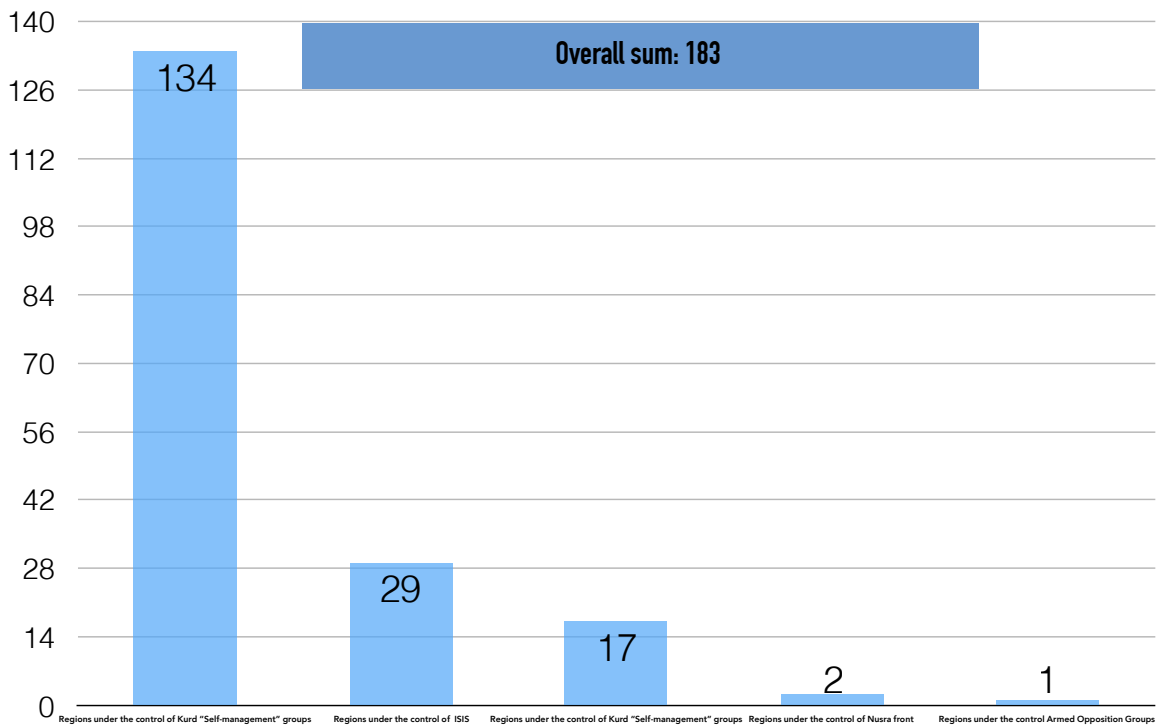




Locations of raids and inspection points that resulted in detention:

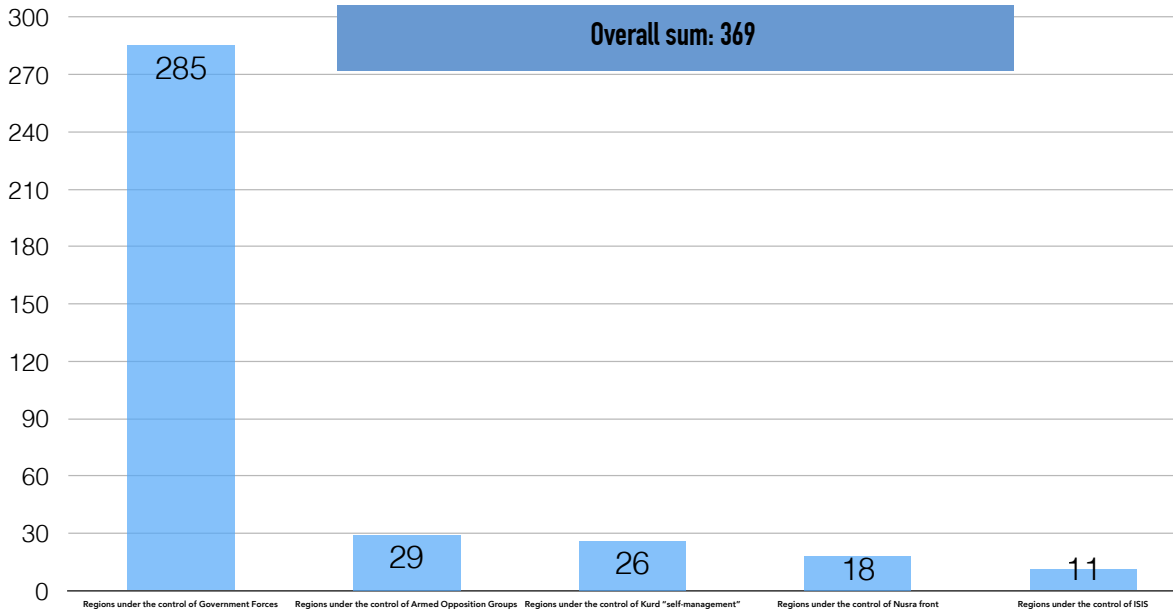


Parties responsible for raids:





Abductions by unidentified Groups:



I. The Most Significant Arbitrary Arrest Cases in February 2016:

A. Government Forces:

Sheikh Anas Abou Hala, from Al Suwaida, was arrested on 22 Feb 2016 by government forces from Al Mousamyia checkpoint while he was moving from Jermana city in Damascus to Al Suwaida city. He was released on 23 Feb 2016 during a prisoners swap between armed opposition and government forces.

(This name shall be kept confidential due to security reasons) a female from Homs, 38, was arrested on 7 Feb 2016 from her residence in Bab Al Balad neighborhood in Hama. She was released on 24 Feb after being tortured and beaten.

B. Kurdish Self Management Forces

[Mohamad Khaleel Rasheed](#), a teacher from Nahiyat Bulbul region in Aleppo, a member in the Kurdish Democratic Party, was arrested on 23 Feb 2016 by KSM forces in Efreeen region and was released on 24 Feb 2016.

Engineer Farouk Diko, from Nahiyat Bulbul region in Aleppo, a member in the Kurdish Democratic Party, was arrested on 23 Feb 2016 by KSM forces in Efreeen region and was released on 24 Feb 2016.





C. Armed Opposition Groups:

Activist Sakher Kree' from Damascus city, head of the civil defense center in Teshreen neighborhood in Damascus, was arrested on 17 Feb 2016 by an armed opposition group. He was abducted from a place next to the civil defense center in Teshreen neighborhood in Damascus city. His fate is still unknown for SNHR and his family as well.

Activist Mohamad Al Ass, from Damascus city, deputy manager of the civil defense center in Damascus was arrested on 17 Feb 2016 by an armed opposition group. He was abducted from a place next to the civil defense center in Teshreen neighborhood in Damascus city. His fate is still unknown for SNHR and his family as well.

D. Unidentified Groups:

Zoubayda Fares Hajj Khaleel, from Idlib, 34, was arrested on 14 Feb 2016. She was abducted and enforced to disappear by unidentified armed men while she was in Areeha city in Idlib suburbs. Her fate is still unknown for SNHR and his family as well.

Recommendations:

1. The Security Council must monitor the implementation of the resolutions: 2042 issued on April 14, 2012, resolution 2043 issued on April 21, 2012 and 2139 issued on February 22, 2014 that put an end to the arbitrary arrests.

2- The United Nations and the International Community must shoulder their responsibilities towards hundreds of thousands of detained and missing individuals in Syria.

